

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-24, and 26-28 are currently pending in the application. Claims 7, 19, 22, and 27 have been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 7 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter the Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7 and 22 as amended overcome the Examiner's rejection. More specifically, the term "stability" recited in claims 7 and 22 has been replaced by the term "status."

Claims 1-5, 7-24, and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Software Metrics Knowledge and Database for Project Management," by Paul et al. ("Paul") in view of "Automating Requirements Management (1999)," by Karl E. Wiegers ("Wiegers").

Paul discloses an approach which can employ modern high-level analytical techniques in conjunction with software metrics database to process the metrics data in order to gain knowledge and detailed insight into the software development process. Construction and maintenance of large, high-quality software projects is a complex, error-prone, and difficult process. Tools employing software database metrics can play an important role in efficient execution and management of such large projects. The framework disclosed in this paper incorporates database and knowledge-base tools, a formal set of software test and evaluation metrics, and a suite of advanced analytic techniques for extracting information and knowledge from available data. The framework has

potential for greatly reducing venture risks and enhancing production quality in the domain of large software project management.

Wiegers discloses several benefits of a requirements management tool. Wiegers further discloses identifying the basic features to expect from such tools and reviewing four commercial tools such as, for example, TBI' Caliber-RM, QSS's DOORS, Rational's RequisitePro, and Integrated Chipware's RTM Workshop. These tools are not designed to gather the proper requirements for a project and will not replace a defined process for managing project requirements. However, these tools are adapted to support and enable an established process.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a method for determining status of a project. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination of Paul and Wiegers fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious at least one of the distinguishing features of independent claim 1, namely, collecting data of a project, the data being structured as branches and leave and wherein the branches are representative of structure components of a requirements document, and the leaves are representative of content components of the requirements document. In contrast to claim 1, Paul discloses test and evaluation metrics only for software project management. Paul fails to disclose metrics based upon a requirements document as claimed. In addition, Paul discloses requiring metrics to measure software quality but fails to disclose metrics that help in determining the status of a project. In addition, the metrics as disclosed in Paul are not created based upon a requirements document comprising structure and content components of the requirements document as claimed. Wiegers discloses management tools for implementing software projects. The management tools as disclosed in Wiegers fails to disclose metrics based upon a requirements document as claimed. Wiegers further teaches a hierarchical tree structure. However, Wiegers fails to disclose a

requirements document wherein data is structured as branches and leave and wherein the branches are representative of structure components of a requirements document, and the leaves are representative of content components of the requirements document. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 distinguishes over the cited combination of Paul and Wiegers. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 2-5 and 7-8 depend from and further restrict independent claim 1 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1, dependent claims 2-5 and 7-8 distinguish over Paul in view of Wiegers and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 2-5 and 7-8 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 9 is directed to a method for analyzing progress of a project. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination of Paul and Wiegers fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious at least one of the distinguishing features of independent claim 9, namely, wherein branches are representative of structure components of a requirements document, and leaves are representative of content components of the requirements document. In contrast to claim 9, Paul discloses test and evaluation metrics only for software project management. Paul fails to disclose metrics based upon a requirements document as claimed. In addition, Paul discloses requiring metrics to measure software quality but fails to disclose metrics that help in determining the progress of a project. In addition, the metrics as disclosed in Paul are not created based upon a requirements document comprising structure and content components of the requirements document as claimed. Wiegers discloses management tools for implementing software projects. The management tools as disclosed in Wiegers fails to disclose metrics based upon a requirements

document as claimed. Wiegers further teaches a hierarchical tree structure. However, Wiegers fails to disclose a requirements document wherein data is structured as branches and leaves and wherein the branches are representative of structure components of a requirements document, and the leaves are representative of content components of the requirements document. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 9 distinguishes over the cited combination of Paul and Wiegers. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 9 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 10-19 depend from and further restrict independent claim 9 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 9, dependent claims 10-19 distinguish over Paul in view of Wiegers and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 10-19 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 20 relates to a system for determining status of a project. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination of Paul and Wiegers fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious at least one of the distinguishing features of independent claim 20, namely, collect data of a project, the data being structured as branches and leaves and wherein the branches are representative of structure components of a requirements document, and the leaves are representative of content components of the requirements document. In contrast to claim 20, Paul discloses test and evaluation metrics only for software project management. Paul fails to disclose metrics based upon a requirements document as claimed. In addition, Paul discloses requiring metrics to measure software quality but fails to disclose metrics that help in determining the status of a project. In addition, the metrics as disclosed in Paul are not created based upon a requirements document comprising structure and content components of the requirements document as claimed. Wiegers

discloses management tools for implementing software projects. The management tools as disclosed in Wiegers fails to disclose metrics based upon a requirements document as claimed. Wiegers further teaches a hierarchical tree structure. However, Wiegers fails to disclose a requirements document wherein data is structured as branches and leave and wherein the branches are representative of structure components of a requirements document, and the leaves are representative of content components of the requirements document. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 20 distinguishes over the cited combination of Paul and Wiegers. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 20 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 21-24 and 26-27 depend from and further restrict independent claim 20 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 20, dependent claims 21-24 and 26-27 distinguish over Paul in view of Wiegers and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 21-24 and 26-27 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 28 relates to a system for determining status of a project. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination of Paul and Wiegers fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious at least one of the distinguishing features of independent claim 28, namely, means for collecting data of a project, the data being structured as branches and leaves and wherein the branches are representative of structure components of a requirements document, and the leaves are representative of content components of the requirements document. In contrast to claim 28, Paul discloses test and evaluation metrics only for software project management. Paul fails to disclose metrics based upon a requirements document as claimed. In addition, Paul discloses requiring metrics to measure software quality but fails to disclose metrics that help in determining the status

of a project. In addition, the metrics as disclosed in Paul are not created based upon a requirements document comprising structure and content components of the requirements document as claimed. Wiegiers discloses management tools for implementing software projects. The management tools as disclosed in Wiegiers fails to disclose metrics based upon a requirements document as claimed. Wiegiers further teaches a hierarchical tree structure. However, Wiegiers fails to disclose a requirements document wherein data is structured as branches and leave and wherein the branches are representative of structure components of a requirements document, and the leaves are representative of content components of the requirements document. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 28 distinguishes over the cited combination of Paul and Wiegiers. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 28 is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance

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Respectfully submitted,

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